



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 8 February 2026, Year A
Readings: Isaiah 58:7-10 ; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16

Parish Priest

Msgr Gerard Burns
g.burns@cadw.nz

Assistant Priest

Fr Alfred Tong
alfred@stfrancisoHariu.nz

Parish Office Hours

04 478 7137
Mon to Thurs : 9am to 2pm
office@stfrancisoHariu.nz

Mass/Liturgy Times

For the coming week

Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass

Sun: 10am Mass

Weekdays Mass Time

Tue : 5.00pm Reconciliation

5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 Reconciliation

11.00am Mass with

Morning Tea

Reconciliation can also be requested by arrangement with office 04 478 7137

Important Dates

10 February 2026

Alpha

18 February 2026

Ash Wednesday

19 February 2026

Safeguarding Workshop

22nd February 2026

Parish Synodal Gathering

Reflections

Jesus in today's gospel says we are light. He does not say "try to be light" but instead "we are light." When we believe in Jesus, invite Him into our lives so that we become one with Him, His light becomes our light.

Psalm 36:9 reflects this truth. "For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light."

God through Isaiah introduces the powerful passage we read today on caring for the poor with the words "The kind of fasting I have chosen is this:"

He goes on, "Above all care for the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, the naked, the homeless, this is the fasting that most pleases me."

Then the Prophet says when you do this "Your light will rise in the darkness; it will shine like the dawn."

This is the light of which Jesus speaks. It is the light of God rising up inside us shining forth to lighten the way for others. In His light we become light.

More than this the Lord promises to be with us, listening to us, protecting us and healing us. It is a beautiful promise of well being when we follow His way.

The psalmist today adds to this theme that the light of God dawns in the darkness for the good, generous and merciful person.

This is why Paul in his letter to the Corinthians preached faith in Jesus. Paul knew if the Corinthians had Jesus in their hearts, that they would reach out to the poor with the light of Christ shining through them. In doing so they would be leading people into the light of God and bringing wholeness into their lives.

We pray that in the light of Jesus

we become

light for others.

Amen

Ewen Laurenson

You are the light of the world.
A city that is set on an hill
cannot be hid.

Matthew 5:14

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased :

Anniversary:

Prayers for the sick: Isabel Zamorano F, Kolotita Gae'e, Fr Frank Whitaker ,Tovio Fa'I, Carmen

Godinez, Lote So'oa, Fr Joe Savesi, Betty Stewart, Fr David Orange, David Clarke, Saili Tafaese ,Moe Pio Tafaese,

Gerard McDonagh, Jessie Hensen, Tau So'oa, John Fanning, Domingo Basilio Navera Jr, Joe Godinet, Augafa & Sefine

Pelelo, Fr Maurice Carmody, Fr Peter O'Connell, Delia Flores Fabreag



For the latest information visit the Parish Website - <https://www.stfrancisoHariu.nz>

Celebrating Our Stories: The "Book of Life"

The Book of Life is a living testament to the blessings, memories, and stories of our St. Francis of Assisi Parish Family. Created to celebrate and promote life, it reflects the faith journey of our community. We invite every parish member to contribute. **How to Share: Drop Off:** Place your contribution in the secure box in the church foyer. **Email:** Send it to coordinator, Fiona Kearns, fiona.kearnz@gmail.com Your shared stories and blessings make this book a treasured celebration of faith. The Book of Life holds a place of honour and is presented at Mass every three months during the Offertory Procession, when we come together in prayer and reverence for life.

Visitation Ministry: Our parish has a dedicated team that brings Holy Communion to parishioners who are ill or unable to attend Mass. We are particularly seeking people to visit Cashmere Home where we offer a weekly Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service on Tuesday mornings. Training and support will be provided. If you would like to know more about this ministry, we would love to hear from you. Please contact **Joanne** at **021 043 6856** or byrnejoannem@gmail.com

Parish Synodal Gathering

Sunday, 22nd February 2026 | 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm (approx.)
Our parish community will come together for an afternoon of prayer, reflection, and renewal. This gathering is an opportunity to connect, share, and grow in faith as we journey together synodally. Further details next week.

St Valentine's Day Mass - Archbishop Paul invites you to the annual celebration of married love at **Mass, 5.30pm Saturday 14 February, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon.** Light refreshments to follow.

VOCATIONS RETREAT WEEKEND

27-29 MARCH 26

COME, FOLLOW ME...

Called to serve
wellingtonpriests.org

THINKING ABOUT PRIESTHOOD?

Join us for a **VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT RETREAT - 27 - 29 March 2026** @ Magnificat Retreat Centre, Featherston. A discernment retreat for young men exploring a call to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Wellington. Closing date for registrations: Friday, 27 February 2026. For more information contact Lucienne l.hensel@cadw.nz

Palm Collection for Ashes : For all parishioners who have palms from last year and wish to return them to the Parish, please place them in the box provided in the walkway. We will burn them to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday. Thank you for your contribution!

St Brigid's School Car Parking – Sundays: *With the Astro turf still in progress, there will be NO on-site parking at the school this weekend. Thank you for your understanding.*

Safeguarding Workshops: All Parishioners Welcome

Two Safeguarding Workshops will be held on **Thursday, 19 February in the Church Hall, Johnsonville, at 2.00pm and 7.00pm.** These workshops are open to all parishioners, not only those involved in parish ministries. The aim is to ensure everyone has a clear understanding of safeguarding within our parish community. To register, please contact Maree Goodall at : meag237@gmail.com

Lenten Reflection Programme.

Our parish will be running a Lenten Reflection Programme throughout Lent, starting from **20 February, every Friday at 12.45 pm** throughout Lent. If you are interested, contact Joanne at **021 043 6856** or byrnejoannem@gmail.com If the afternoon time does not suit you, please contact Joanne about an evening option.

LENT 2026 with Food for Faith.

Visit www.foodforfaith.org.nz and sign up to receive daily email encouragements from **Fr. John O'Connor**. Prepared especially for those seeking greater maturity of faith.

AN AFTERNOON IN ROME - exhibition and concert with Wellington artist **Julian Knap & Anna Maksymova Knap.**

2-4pm 21st February 2026 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 40 Hill Street, Wellington. Artist Julian Knap and his wife Anna present An Afternoon in Rome - a piano concert of Italian composers followed by the unveiling of Julian's epic cityscape painting of Rome. Concert entry by Donation. For more information visit www.exhibitions-gallery.co.nz

Caritas and Bishop's Lenten Appeal

As we approach the holy season of Lent, we are invited to reflect, pray, and give generously. Caritas and Bishop's Lenten Appeal envelopes are available, please consider taking one home and supporting those in need. Your kindness and generosity are deeply appreciated.

Employment Opportunity

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is currently seeking a **Donation Processor (Fixed Term)** to join Wellington-based team. The full job listing is available on the website here: <https://www.caritas.org.nz/careers-with-caritas>

Quote from Pope Leo :

'These Beatitudes remain a paradox only for those who believe that God is other than how Christ reveals him. Those who expect the arrogant to always rule the earth are surprised by the Lord's words. Those who are accustomed to thinking that happiness belongs to the rich may believe that Jesus is deluded. However, the delusion lies precisely in the lack of faith in Christ. He is the poor man who shares his life with everyone, the meek man who perseveres in suffering, the peacemaker persecuted to death on the cross.'

- Pope Leo XIV, Angelus, 1 Feb 2026.

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 9am to 2pm

Email: office@stfrancisohariu.nz, **Phone:** 04 478 7137

If you need to contact a priest urgently, such as for the Anointing of someone who is gravely unwell, please call: the Parish Office 04 478 7137 and select option 1

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

Account name: ARCHDIO OF WGTN ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

Parish Bank Account for Planned Giving/Koha: **02-0524-0203642-00**

